



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/000,362	12/04/2001	Gerard Auvray	Q67282	9785

23373 7590 10/18/2006
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

SHARMA, SUJATHA R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2618

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/000,362	AUVRAY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sujatha Sharma	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

1. Claims 1-3,5-7,9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Lidbetter [EP 1 079 547].

Regarding claim 1,5 Lidbetter discloses a system and method of providing a mobile telephone service on board a vehicle (see col. 1, lines 3-5 and fig. 1), said system being connected to a public land mobile network (see 4 in Fig. 1) via a satellite (see 6 in fig.1) and including means for setting up at least one transport connection between said vehicle and said public land mobile network before receiving a call request and for then using said transport connection for a call as soon as a request to set up a call is received. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is rec'd. See also col. 2, paragraph 10, col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16

Regarding claims 2,6 Lidbetter discloses a method wherein the said transport connection remains in standby state. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is

Art Unit: 2618

rec'd. The reference discloses a method where the satellite link is continuously established i.e. the link is in the standby state until a call setup is received. See also col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16.

Regarding claims 3,7 Lidbetter discloses a method wherein the duration of said transport connection is limited and reactivated in accordance with a time-delay. See col. 3, lines 19-22 and paragraph 13. Here the satellite link is reactivated after a time delay when the ship again leaves the shore and when there is no interference to the base station on board from the fixed base station on shore.

Regarding claim 9, Lidbetter discloses a method wherein said transport connection can be used without further selection process when said request to set up a call is received. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is rec'd. See also col. 2, paragraph 10, col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16

Regarding claims 10,12 Lidbetter further discloses a method wherein said transport connection is a connection for a single call. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is rec'd. See also col. 2, paragraph 10, col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16

Art Unit: 2618

Regarding claim 11, Lidbetter further discloses a method wherein said transport connection can be used without further selection process when said request to set up a call is received. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is rec'd. See also col. 2, paragraph 10, col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16

Regarding claims 13,14 Lidbetter discloses a method wherein said transport connection consumes substantially no resources in said standby state. See col. 2, paragraphs 6,7,8 where the tracking radio link provides a continuous transport link that can be used to setup a call as soon as a request for call setup is rec'd. See also col. 2, paragraph 10, col. 3, paragraph 11, col. 4, paragraph 16. Here the tracking radio link is setup and since there is no call setup during the setup of the tracking radio link there are no resources being utilized at that time.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 4,8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lidbetter [US EP 1 079 547] in view of Horrer [US 6,321,084].

Regarding claims 4,8 Lidbetter discloses all the limitations as claimed. However he does not disclose in particular wherein said vehicles are aircraft.

Art Unit: 2618

Horrer, in the same field of invention, teaches a method of setting up telecommunication for persons on board a vehicle such as an aircraft.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the above teachings of Horrer to Lidbetter in order that the person subscribed to a telecommunications network continues to be reachable in stationary or mobile facilities such as aircrafts.

Response to Arguments

4. The applicant argues that the primary reference Lidbetter fails to disclose a method where a transport / continuous channel is set up before the call is made so that when the user initiates a call the connection time is reduced.

The examiner respectfully disagrees. In fact the applicant himself admits that the Lidbetter reference shows some aspect of a continuous channel but then there is no detailed discussion about it.

The examiner would again like to point out that the limitation “transport channel / continuous channel” as defined by the applicant is given a broad interpretation wherein when the mobile is turned on a control channel is set up between the mobile station and the base station which facilitates the communication between the mobile station and the base station when the mobile user wishes to make a call. Thus the control channel here meets the claim limitation of setting up a transport channel prior to the call set up.


Therefore the claims 1-8 as submitted in the previous office action and as discussed above are considered proper. Further the newly added claims 9-14 are also addressed in the above office action.

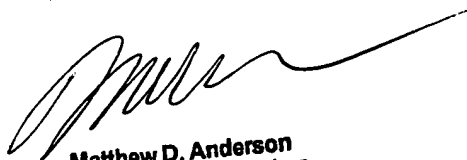
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sujatha Sharma whose telephone number is 571-272-7886. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7.30am - 4.00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on 571-272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sujatha Sharma
October 7, 2006


Matthew D. Anderson
Supervisory Patent Examiner